Unemployment due to Closure of Textile Mills

2418. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile labourers who have been unemployed due to closure of textile mills in the country, State-wise details thereof;

(b) how many of them are given training to get self employment or alternative employment, State-wise details;

(c) the plan to help the remaining labourers to find employment and by when; and

(d) whether there is any time-bound programme finalised; if so the details thereof, if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The number of textile workers affected due to closure of cotton/man-made fibre textile mills was reportedly 263901 as on 30.4.98. A statement indicating number of textile workers affected State-wise is attached. (*see* below)

(b) to (d) Assistance from National Renewal Fund is available only for Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central PSUs and schemes for counselling, retraining and redeployment of rationalised workers. Under the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme, an interim relief for a period of three years is provided to the workers rendered jobless due to permanent/partial closure of textile mills in the private sector.

Statement

Number of textile workers affected State-wise due to closure of cotton/man-made fibre textile mills as on 30.4.98 is given below.

Name of State/U.T.	Workers
Andhra Pradesh	7023
Assam	2080
Bihar	501
Gujarat	105069
Haryana	4015
Karnataka	7927
Kerala	2178
Madhya Pradesh	21091
Maharashtra	28764
Orissa	48
Punjab	2317
Rajashthan	8393
Tamil Nadu	17104
Uttar Pradesh	29299
West Bengal	20700
Delhi	6117
Manipur	475
TOTAL :	263901

Winding up the Closed NTC Mills in Gujarat

2419. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to wind up the closed NTC mills in Gujarat including those that can be partially restarted, like the spinning section;

(b) the number of NTC mills that can be reopened, with some effort or a particular section of the mill;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have finalised a scheme of early retirement of its technical staff and officers can have an incentive to have retirement; and

(d) whether it will not increase unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) NTC (Gujarat) Ltd. which manages 11 NTC mills in the State of Gujarat

stands referred to BIFR under the provisions of Sick Industries Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. The BIFR has declared NTC (Guj.) along with its constituent units as a sick company and has issued a show cause notice for winding up of this Company.

No NTC Mill in the State of Gujarat has been closed. However, there is cessation of activities in all the mills due to shortage of working capital. Government are considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of the mills becoming positive within the prescribed period. The interest of the workers will be kept in view while finalising the revised turn around strategy.

(c) and (d) A Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been in operation in NTC and as on 31.3.1998, 7951 employees have already availed of the benefits of VRS in NTC (Guj.) Ltd. There is no special retirement scheme separately for technical staff and officers. Under the VRS scheme due compensation at the rate of 45 days wages/salaries for each completed year of service or the wages/salaries for the balance service, whichever is less, in addition to the normal terminal benefits is paid to the employees.

Revival Scheme of NTC

2420. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of Textiles be pleased to state:

(a) whether the turn around scheme 1995 for the revival of National Textile Corporation (NTC) mills have failed to take off;

(b) the schemes currently with the Textile Ministry to modernise and reorganise the N.T.C. Mills; and

(c) whether Government will take a fresh initiative with the Government of Maharashtra to allow sale of land owned by N.T.C. in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Government had approved a revised turn around strategy for NTC involving modernisation of 79 mills at an outlay of Rs. 2005.72 crores. The funds for modernisation were to be raised from sale of surplus lands and assets of NTC mills. This revival plan has been placed before the BIFR since 8 out of 9 subsidiaries have been referred to the BIFR where the matter is presently under consideration. However, the sale of land and assets could not be effected. Major portion of such proceeds have to be generated from sale of surplus land/assets situated in the Mumbai mills of NTC for which State Government clearance is still awaited.

(b) On the basis of a unit wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

(c) The Government have taken up the matter regarding sale of land of NTC Mills in Maharashtra with the Government of Maharashtra at the highest level on a number of occasions. Recently Minister of Textiles met the concerned Ministers in the State Government to expedite the matter.

Rehabilitation of textile workers

2421. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TWRF scheme was introduced by Government with effect from 15th September, 1986 to rehabilitate the workers of closed textile mills;

(b) if so, when and at what level the decision was taken to restrict its implementation to the private sector and what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present status in this regard?